

**County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health**  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

Thursday, February 25, 2010

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and  
not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

**Barry Perrou, Past Chairman, Presiding**

**I. Call to Order – Barry Perrou**

The meeting was called to order.

**II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd**

Attendance recorded as follows:

- Absent Excused: Jerry Lubin, Larry Gasco, Lana Brody, Greg Thompson, Victoria Sofro, and Phillip Chen

**III. Approval of Minutes – Barry Perrou**

**ACTION TAKEN – A motion to approve the January 28, 2010 minutes was passed with corrections. The motion was moved and seconded by Commissioners Rabens and McNeill.**

**IV. Chair's Report**

**MHC/SAAC Chair Meeting (January 12, 2010)**

Terry Lewis reported on a discussion at the meeting on how to utilize the DMH interns. The group informed Ms. Lewis that peer advocates were concerned that the DMH interns were going to take their jobs. Ms. Lewis informed the group DMH plans to assign the interns to work under the direction of the district chiefs until further notice.

Barry Perrou announced to the Commission, at the February 9 board meeting Supervisor Don Knabe made a motion to establish an executive-level group to oversee the study to transport 5150 detainees be organized, convened, and chaired by the Chief Executive Officer. The motion was passed with 5 votes.

**MHC Primary Goals for FY 2009/10**

**Clients with Physical and Mental Disabilities**

No Report - Commissioner Thompson was absent excused.

### **Older Adults**

George Caballero informed the Commission of his meeting with Carlotta Childs-Seagle, DMH Deputy Director, Older Adults Bureau to discuss a pilot project. Mr. Caballero stated the project will involve the Lennox Fire Station. Mr. Caballero also stated the Lennox Fire Station is the model because it is a high utilizer facility in the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

## **V. Commissioners' Reports**

**Carlos Sosa** announced the MHSA WET committee will meet to discuss stipends and application qualification issues. Mr. Sosa will update the Commission on the details of the meeting.

**Delores Huffman** reported available housing continues to expand in Los Angeles County based on the monthly housing statistics listed in the information below:

### **MHSA Housing Program**

Twenty-nine projects are actively participating in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program application process. The status of each project as of February 23, 2010 is shown below:

#### **Finalizing Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment**

- Avalon II Family Apartments

#### **Public Posting in Process**

- Swarthy World Society Apartments

#### **Preparing Technical Submission**

- New Genesis Apartments
- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- Swarthy World Society Apartments

#### **Technical Submission under Review**

- Parkview on the Park Apartments
- Willis Avenue Apartments
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – Hope
- Parker Hotel

#### **Applications Invited to Submit Full Applications**

- KIWA Apartments
- Bobbi Owens Family Living Community
- NoHo Senior Villas

### **Application Submitted to the State Pending Approval**

- PWC Family Housing
- Menlo Family Housing
- Osborne Place Apartments
- Figueroa Apartments
- Horizon Apartments
- 28<sup>th</sup> St. YMCA Residences
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)

### **Approved for Funding by the State**

- Charles Cobb Apartments
- Epworth Apartments
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Daniel's Village
- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens

### **Housing Trust Fund**

Of the 12 Housing Trust Fund awardees, eight projects are in operation as of December 15, 2009. Bonnie Brae Apartments is scheduled to opening in the next several months and the remaining projects including Glenoaks Gardens Apartments and Downtown Women's Center are both slated to open in fall 2010 and Mini Twelve Step, slated to open in winter 2011.

### **Ongoing & Upcoming Activities**

#### **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Funding**

Upon recommendations from the MHSA Housing Advisory Board (Advisory Board), the Department plans to re-open its Expression of Interest to leverage NSP funding with the MHSA Housing Program funding. The Advisory Board recommended utilizing \$1.2 millions of accrued interest from the MHSA Housing Program funding.

#### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding**

As at December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009, the Department fully utilized \$51,051 which was awarded through the American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to provide rental/eviction and utility assistance and food and motel vouchers to mental health consumers who are homeless, as well as those who are non-traditional consumers of mental health services who may be in crisis due to the impact of the current economic condition. Locally, United Way administered the ARRA funding.

Under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) administered locally through United Way, the Department applied for \$80,000 in motel vouchers and \$80,000 in food vouchers for a total of \$160,000. When approved, these resources will be made available Countywide through our directly-operated clinics.

Ms. Huffman also reported on an informational meeting lead by Eduardo Vega, DMH, pertaining to changes for the client activity fund (CCAF) program participants. Ms. Huffman stated all program participants must reapply, the new procedures were developed to permit a process of fairness because the funding is small, and intended to rotate applicants in order to include new enrollees.

**Frank Baron** shared his experience being interviewed by the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration committee representatives. Mr. Baron stated the video will be 1½ hour long and titled "People Say I'm Crazy."

Mr. Baron proposed a concern to Dr. Southard regarding a meeting facilitated by Eduardo Vega. Mr. Baron's concern is information may not reach various ethnic communities because of the lack of translation resources at meetings. Mr. Baron also stated clients become frustrated because they cannot understand what the speaker is saying.

**Ilean Rabens** announced the date and activities for the Art SMART (Social/Multicultural/Academic/Recreational/Therapeutic) kick-off; collaboration with DMH, Probation Juvenile Camps, LACOE (Los Angeles County Office of Education), and Cal Arts College Artists.

**Dr. Howard Askins** spoke on details addressed at the monthly clinical policy meeting. Approval of the IBHIS (Integrated Behavioral Health Information System) project updates the department on the medical records technology. The system allows data to relate to length of stay outcomes. Dr. Askins also emphasized the monthly clinical snapshot developed by Dr. Shaner's staff contains useful information such as the number of programs that are being funded by MHSA dollars.

## **VI. Special Presentation – Community and Senior Services**

Ms. Cynthia D. Banks, Director, presented the Community and Senior Services (CSS) department's commitment to the older adults in Los Angeles County that reside outside of the City of Los Angeles. CSS has the responsibility within each community to establish systems in order to address the care needs of older individuals and their family caregivers. Ms. Banks reported, in 2020 the population will change to 30% of Los Angeles County residents will be 60 years or older. Ms. Banks also highlighted some of the 100 different services directly targeted for seniors. Ms. Banks discussed several new and interim programs intended to improve the quality of services currently offered:

- Area Agency on Aging (AAA) – A three year plan working toward providing comprehensive, coordinated and effective services in collaboration with its partners. Additionally, AAA encourages older and disabled adults to increase their awareness of what to do in the event of a disaster and/or emergency. This is needed because California is subject to multiple types of disasters, i.e. earthquakes, wildfires, etc., which makes it critical to establish an efficient plan to address the needs of seniors and disabled residents of Los Angeles County. Several other AAA services include, day care, Alzheimer day care resource centers, elder abuse prevention, home delivered meals, outreach, and legal assistance.
- The Seamless Senior Services (S3) Initiative involves a task force representing 49 County departments. The task includes; develop an inventory of all County services provided to seniors and the departments that provide the service, create an Intranet website to centralize information on the projects, and analyze the multiple services available in supportive services, health and well-being, income support, and prevention and intervention.
- Jay Glassman, Program Manager, spoke on the Title 5 Training and Job Opportunity Program. The program responds to a critical need to promote employment opportunities for individuals 55 years of age and older. The goal is to equip older workers with skills to transition into unsubsidized employment and network with non profit and public agencies for subsidized on-the-job training experiences. The on-the-job training component helps seniors learn new job skills necessary in today's workplace.
- CSS launched a co-located pilot project at two locations with DMH GENESIS Program. The primary goal of this collaboration is networking and sharing services. The locations are Glendora and Hawthorne/Lawndale.

## **VII. Departmental Report – Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director**

Dr. Southard reported on the following budget issues impacting Los Angeles County and DMH:

- DMH submitted plans to absorb \$43 million curtailment to CEO
- State imposed more cost responsibilities on local governments such as the release of parolees; Los Angeles County will receive 7,700
- Veterans returning home need mental health care increases case loads
- Assessing the mental health needs of potential City of LA employee lay offs.
- Redirect PEI funding to providers with no expansion because funding will be attached to evidence based or planned services for consumers. There is no funding available for retraining staff for evidence based services.

Dr. Southard also discussed a report published by the Children's Advocacy Institute regarding TAY foster children that contained incomplete, inaccurate, and unfair characterization of the use of MHSA funds. DMH immediately drafted a response to address the egregious inaccuracies in the report

### **Legislative Report**

Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst, updated the Commission on impact of AB 3632 and the IMD program budget issues.

Ms. Rajlal also proposed DMH convene a group of concerned citizens to speak on positive issues and the quality of services they receive at DMH. In addition, they can speak on successes in mental health achievements, report on positive news coverage, and develop a speaker's bureau.

## **VIII. Community and SAAC (Service Area Advisory Committee) Reports**

Roberta Burkenheim, SAAC 2 Representative, reported the advisory group is selecting one representative to present at the Empowerment and Advocacy Conference, preparing for the DMH 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary interactive exhibition, and San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center celebrates its 40 year anniversary. The Client Run Center continues to plan what services are needed for possible funding from DMH for the resource directory. Ms. Burkenheim also announced life skills classes have been added to the pantry distribution process.

#### **IX. Public Comments**

- Phyllis Coto – The Legislative Advocacy is planning a rally at the Ronald Reagan Building near the end of April to protest a forthcoming bill by the governor to take away millions of dollars from MHSA. Ms. Coto asked the Commission to please support the rally and she will provide more information when further details are established.
- Robert Coto – Discussed MTA and SEIU transportation issues.
- Maria Elena Juarez – Chair Latino Coalition discussed the changes to the CCAF program and how it will unenthusiastically impact client participation in other DMH activities they are asked to support. *Dr. Southard responded.*
- Carlos Orellana – Concerned about a letter he had to provide to DMH. *Dr. Southard responded.*
- Jose Concel – Concerned about the CCAF form.

#### **X. Meeting Adjourned**

#### **XI. PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING LOCATION**

**Thursday, March 25, 2010  
Noon – 2:30 pm  
500 W. Temple Street  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration - Room 739  
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Submitted by Canetana Hurd